

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 41, 45 and 63. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

41. (Five Times Amended) A method of identifying an agent which enhances the activity of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes as a result of T cell receptor, (TCR), stimulation with peptide, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase mediates immature thymocyte susceptibility to cell death, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting an isolated form of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes as a result of TCR stimulation with peptide, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, with a caspase substrate in the presence of the agent; and
- (b) identifying enhancement of caspase or procaspase activity.

45. (Five Times Amended) A method of enhancing the activity of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes as a result of T cell receptor, (TCR), stimulation with peptide, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase mediates immature thymocyte susceptibility to cell death, comprising contacting an isolated form of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes as a result of TCR stimulation with peptide with an agent that enhances the activity of the caspase or procaspase.

63. (Amended) A method of identifying an agent which enhances the activity of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes as a result of T cell receptor, (TCR), stimulation with peptide, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase is necessary for apoptosis, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes as a result of TCR stimulation with peptide, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, with biotin-DEVDamk in the presence of the agent; and